Mission Statement

The mission of the Little Tokyo Service Center, a Community Development Corporation is to meet the critical needs of people and build community.

- We improve the lives of individuals and families through culturally sensitive social services.
- We strengthen neighborhoods through housing and community development.
- We promote the rich heritage of the ethnic community.

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YESTERDAY, TODAY AND BEYOND

Twenty-six years ago, LTSC was a developing vision powered by 3 dedicated staffers filled with idealism. Today, LTSC is a multi-faceted mid-sized nonprofit enterprise with over 120 staffers, an army of volunteers, a diverse client-base and still no shortage of idealism.

Over the years, we have spearheaded groundbreaking and trend-setting development for low-income families, small businesses, and community revitalization. We have provided a wide array of social services to serve the Little Tokyo community and beyond. Thanks to our supporters, staff, board members and clients, we will continue to keep our promise to “Help people, and build community” with each Dawning year.

In 2005-2006, a collaborative with the Asian Pacific Family Center, we opened the doors of the Pacific Housing Development Project to provide supportive housing to the adult mentally disabled population in Monterey Park. We also launched a series of multi-lingual Caregivers Symposiums aimed at giving tools and vital information to caregivers of loved ones with medical difficulties. This year, we increased the rigor of the Family Literacy Program giving parents of our pre-school students real English, computer and leadership skills and increased confidence.

As we close out 2006, LTSC will be facing some serious issues ahead:
- Launching the Little Tokyo Recreation Center Capital Campaign to raise $14 million
- Balancing gentrification and historic cultural preservation in Little Tokyo
- Serving a rapidly changing resident population
- Providing community development and social services to more constituencies

As we look ahead, we inevitably have to look behind—to examine what we’ve already done, in order to find the courage for the future. I am confident that the current LTSC staff will, just like the 3 young staffers in 1981, will move ahead with hope and compassion to fulfill that early vision of an organization that truly helps people.

Bill Watanabe
Executive Director

In 2006, the new rehabilitated Pacific Housing Development reopened.
Nancy-Breaking Records Again!

Marrow Donations Program

In 2002, the active life of the quintessential basketball-mom, Nancy Sakakura, who loved bowling, golf and family celebrations, ground to a halt when she was diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome, often known as Preleukemia. No longer able to produce healthy blood cells, Nancy came to Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches (A3M) at LTSC, the largest Asian Pacific Islander donor recruitment group.

“They’re so resourceful, accommodating and very compassionate. They have found answers to every question I’ve given them and have even helped me in my fight with my health insurance.” Nancy raved about the A3M staff. The Sakakura’s began rolling up their sleeves and helping at many drives, even coordinating some of their own. Her enduring optimism despite her dire condition rallied people to the cause.

As her urgent search pushed past its second year, Nancy’s body was wearing thin and dependent on weekly blood transfusions. It was heartbreaking when two good matches were found but did not work out. Still, Nancy, her family, and LTSC did not give up. Earlier this year, an overseas match was found. On May 25, 2006, she gratefully received her much needed transplant.

On the road of recovery, Nancy’s humor, personality and warm smile are still very much in tact. She smiles and jokes nervously with bank tellers when she approaches wearing her post-operative mask and hat. Now months into remission, she writes to her many fans that she’s “breaking records again, folks!” going three weeks without a transfusion.

A3M’s unrelenting outreach have saved lives locally and around the world. The National Marrow Donor Registry reports that the chance of minorities finding matches “has improved significantly since 1991” when A3M started. But, one in five patients still cannot find a match. Nancy says it best: “A lot of minorities are looking for donors. It’s so important to get the information out, to get registered, and stay committed. YOU may be the only person who can save a life.”

If you would like to join the database, contact A3M

www.asianmarrow.org
Erica* and her two young daughters endured horror and tremendous pain at the mercy of her abusive husband for 12 years. To save herself and her precious daughters from a violent home life, Erica left her husband—the father of her two children.

Since all of Erica’s family resided outside of the country, she had nowhere to turn. Then she found out about the Kosumosu Transitional Housing Program in 2004 and her life has not been the same since. Kosumosu staff welcomed Erica and her daughters. During their stay, Erica enrolled in school and found part-time employment. She and her daughters received safe and confidential housing, counseling, and taking parenting classes to better help her children through the transition.

In the spring of 2006, the family successfully completed the program. Erica found permanent housing in her desired location; she enrolled her daughters in after-school and summer programs; and she found full-time employment, thus restoring a sense of normalcy for her family. Just some years prior, her husband had prevented her from pursuing her education. In contrast, Erica, one semester away from obtaining her college degree, was confident and ready for the future.

Now she is looking forward to a bright career in social work to assist other survivors of domestic violence and women in difficult situations. Erica has since expressed that her biggest accomplishment at

Kosumosu was learning to live independently in a violence-free environment with her daughters. Without a doubt, Erica and her family are no longer victims. They are now victors and because of Kosumosu a world of possibilities now awaits them!

* changed to protect identity

Kokeshi dolls once symbolized forgotten girl children and now beautifully depict women. At LTSC’s transitional housing the mothers and children are sheltered, nourished and begin, once again, to thrive.
Ernest Adams, with groceries in hand, stops to welcome LTSC staff into his apartment in one of LTSC’s affordable housing communities. Just a year ago, he was homeless and recovering in Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center from brain damage, not able to speak and blind in his left eye.

On the streets, the outgoing Ernest had earned the respect of local business owners, LTSC staff and even a U.S. Appellate Court judge. Often wearing a button down shirt, he made the extra effort to stay clean, not an easy task sleeping in a chair at the west end of the 3rd Street tunnel. During the day he would go for coffee, exercise, read the Bible and other books in his collection, and greet friends commuting to work. Staff once came upon Mr. Adams emptying the contents of his pockets into a fund for Katrina victims. To avoid the seedy influences of Skid Row, he camped alone, but this also left him exposed.

On August 16, 2005, two young men who had just watched the "Bumfights" video came downtown with baseball bats and found Ernest sleeping. They savagely beat him, crushing his skull and leaving him for dead.

The remarkable surgeons and staff at the Los Angeles County Hospital/USC Medical Center saved his life. Despite his recent experience however, Ernest was still resistant to housing, having witnessed horrible crimes in residential hotels. LTSC staff and community friends worked together to ensure Ernest that LTSC housing was permanent and safe. And in March, Ernest moved into his own studio for the first time in over 8 years.

Now he goes for his 5-mile runs three times a week, has studied for the real estate brokers exam, and enjoys cooking at home. At night though, he is not yet able to rest, traumatized, still on guard and awaking at the slightest noise. Admirably, Ernest has forgiven the batterers and focuses on the future. He hides the dents and scars in his skull with a cap. Those who have the pleasure of meeting Ernest will get to know an intelligent and generous man with an unyielding spirit. LTSC is proud of Ernest and honored to have earned his trust and to be a part of his future in our community.
In the 1970’s, drawn to the ethnic margins of society, idealists like Evelyn Yoshimura came to Little Tokyo to help. They organized the neighborhood to protest eviction. The tenants were compensated, a victory for community organizing. Two social workers were commissioned to serve the neighborhood, and Evelyn came to assist when the Little Tokyo Service Center opened its doors in 1980.

When Evelyn first came to Los Angeles as a child in the late 1950’s, the middle-class homeowners in the Crenshaw district “didn’t sell to Japs.” But, sell they did and Evelyn found herself a block from Ray Charles and enjoying Girl Scout soirées in the home of the legendary jazz drummer Chico Hamilton. When a young black Muslim greeted her as “Asian sister”, the respect, equality, and unity conveyed struck her. In college, she fought with others against administrators to start the first Ethnic Studies program at California State University, Long Beach.

Evelyn’s values helped ground the roots of LTSC’s Community Organizing: partnership with others, commitment to serve regardless of age or race, and development of local leadership and promotion of civic involvement.

Over her 25 years at LTSC, Evelyn’s activist spirit has fueled others to action. The Little Tokyo Residents Association pushed the city to fix the dilapidated San Pedro Firm Building and deem it a historic site. Youth marched for a recreation center to have a safe place to play. Artists used their voice to help transform the Union Center into the largest Asian American performing arts venue in the West.

The three activists, Bill Watanabe, Yasuko Sakamoto and Evelyn are still leading the work from LTSC’s Casa Heiwa, where senior tenants greet them in the lobby and the doors are still open to serve the people.
For millennia the humble tofu, high in calcium, iron and B vitamins and a staple of most Asian cooking, has nourished hungry masses without discrimination. LTSC celebrates this protein powerhouse by spotlighting delicious soy culinary creations, the likes of cappuchino soy ice cream and edamame shumai. Visitors enjoying a day with the fellow Angelinos in downtown LA, soon discover the charm of the hip and historical Little Tokyo district. The funds raised support social services and other programs towards LTSC’s mission to help people and build community.

In 2006, the 11th Annual LA Tofu Festival:

- Debuted Celebrity Chef Cooking Demonstrations
- Presented an evening concert by Blackalicious - known internationally for their lyrical art and inspirational themes
- Premiered in the US in English, the wildly successful "Initial D" animated series, featuring Tak, a tofu delivery boy and car racer
- Hosted the competitive LA Tofu Eating Contest
- Served many new tasty tofu creations
- Offered a larger marketplace of unique gifts than ever before 21,500 people attended, more visitors per hour than any other in festival history

[www.TofuFestival.com]
Program Summaries

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Community Economic Development (CED)
CED encompasses various programs and projects that provide affordable housing, community revitalization and development, and cultural preservation.

To date, LTSC has completed over 600 apartment units, over 120,000 square feet of community space (such as childcare centers) and has developed over $100 million in community-serving nonprofit real estate. This year CED, through a collaborative with the Asian Pacific Family Center, completed the Pacific Housing Development—a restoration project providing 7 beds of supportive housing for mentally disabled adults.

CED is in process with 20 projects, totaling 800 units:
- 4 projects active with site control - 170 units
- 9 projects pending site control - 400 units
- 6 conceptual projects - 200 units

Real Estate Development (REDD)
The cornerstone of LTSC’s community and economic development strategy, REDD works with neighborhood and government leaders to build housing, community facilities, and commercial space while helping other community-based organizations serve low-income individuals and families.

Property and Asset Management
LTSC provides full service property management and financial asset management for nine building owners and a total of 14 buildings. The portfolio totals 48 commercial units and 350 residential units, which are mostly affordable housing. Other units are dedicated to special needs tenants, including transitional housing for victims of domestic violence, a group home for developmentally disabled adults and apartments dedicated to formerly homeless persons coming from shelters.

Community Organizing
LTSC organizes Little Tokyo residents to represent their voice in the ongoing development of their neighborhood. This year the residents worked with other stakeholders and the City to help:
- Curb the number of bail bonds businesses
- Repair dangerous sidewalks
- Voiced concerns to city developers

Cultural and Historic Preservation
LTSC honors the diverse history of Little Tokyo and also proudly celebrates and shares Japanese American culture with all interested. This year:
- A new three-paneled bronze landmark commemorates Japanese American history
- A mural welcomes visitors with a beautiful testimony to community teamwork and self-determination

In the summer, LTSC helps run Camp Musubi, a week of fun and learning about heritage.
- 33 middle school age campers participated

The Nikkei Community Internship develops the next generation of leaders through placements at organizations and leadership training.
- 12 interns were trained - www.nikkeiyouth.org
LTSC also continues developing preservation strategies through Ties that Bind and fosters awareness with the Historic Society.

Little Tokyo Wireless Internet Services
High-speed access is provided at reduced rates for non-profit and small businesses. www.LittleTokyoWireless.org

Small Business Development
The Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program assists the development of small and micro businesses in Los Angeles with particular focus on Chinatown, Koreatown, Little Tokyo, Thai Town and Filipino business communities, especially those of low income immigrants. Business counselors, operating in 7 languages have offered 83 workshops this year.
Topics included: financial literacy, access to capital, marketing, starting a restaurant, E-commerce and our regular Entrepreneurial Training Programs (ETP) series. [www.APISDP.org](http://www.APISDP.org)

- 2,600 students attending workshops and ETP went on to create 32 businesses and 62 jobs
- Over 500 minority business owners gained valuable resources, information and contacts at the Asian Small Business Expo

**DisKover Center- Little Tokyo and Angelina**

LTSC provides technology access to the community through affordable computer classes and public access hours. Students of all ages participate in introductory to advanced level classes. From basic computer literacy to making digital movies, programs are offered to help young people master technology, assist adults with improving their job skills, and help seniors come into the computer age.

- 65 workshops/courses in English and Japanese were offered
- 12 classes in Spanish were offered
- 597 children, adult, and older adults trained
- 1,213 community members utilized the center
- 10 families received needed computers
- 2 students found jobs in the community

**HELPING PEOPLE**

**Asians For Miracle Marrow Matches (A3M)**

A3M helps save lives by working to improve patient access to treatment options including bone marrow transplants. This year A3M hosted 329 donor drives and recruited 7,187 potential donors. Since its inception, A3M has added over 100,000 Asian and Pacific Islander (API) potential marrow donors, one fourth of the total API’s in the National Marrow Donor Program Registry. 169 A3M-recruited donors have donated their marrow or blood cells to patients, 26 of which have been in the past 12 months.

**Asian Pacific American Older Adults Task Force**

Through the MENTORS project OATF provides cultural education, diversity training and technical assistance to licensed caregivers of the elderly.

- 323 caregivers attended 21 trainings and workshops
- 3,589 hours of technical assistance were provided

**Cambodian Senior Nutrition Project**

Five days a week OATF provides hot, nutritious, culturally-appropriate meals to Cambodian seniors at the California Recreation Center in Long Beach.

- Over 5,000 meals were served

**Children and Youth Services**

With two of the roughest areas around the corner, LTSC creates nurturing safe havens for youth and families in its apartments. Child care, homework tutoring, academic enrichment, field trips, computer-based learning, and community activities are available. Participants this year included:

- 30 youth at the Casa Huiwa Apartments
- 48 youth at the Angelina Apartments
- 65 youth connected with UCLA volunteers in the CHAMPS mentoring program

**Child Care**

Subsidized, high quality care for infants and toddlers and preschool education prepares children for school and social interaction and forms strong family partnerships. One of the few in the downtown area serving low-income families, LTSC’s licensed home-based and center care is critical to the parents who work or are in school. This year LTSC served:

- 74 infants & toddlers in the Grace Lino Center
- 82 children in Family Child Care
- 83 children in Angelina Head Start/State Preschool

**Parent Education & Involvement**

In the rigorous First 5 Family Literacy Program, parents learn and apply skills 30 hours a week in adult education and vocational training, parenting skills classes and interactive literacy activities with their children in our preschool.

- 23 parents were trained this past year
Lisa Sugino recaps eventful years.

Seniors enjoying lunch.

Entrepreneurs prepare to start their own businesses.

Seniors enjoy hot nutritious meals.

The basketball Tigers show their teeth.

Pacific Bridge residents conduct a garage sale fundraiser.

Students learn arts through computers.

Fathers invest Saturday mornings learning fun activities with their preschoolers.
Parents are involved in program governance and achieving specific family goals.

- On average 55 attend monthly workshops
- 27 parents achieved family/personal goals
- 20 fathers had fun, quality time with their children in educational monthly workshops
- 27% of children in the preschool had special needs

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Counseling Programs**
Providing services in languages that match the diversity of the population of the area has always been a priority of LTSC. Trained case managers provide information, referrals and assistance in Japanese, Korean, Chinese and Spanish, as well as English. Licensed social workers provide individual and family counseling. This year LTSC served:

- 250 Individuals and families including 10 Domestic violence batterers
- 188 received in-depth case management services through the Neighborhood Action Program
- 690 first generation Japanese called the Nikkei helpline
- 688 foreign exchange students called the Ryugakusei Hotline
- 15 attended monthly stroke, Alzheimer’s or widow’s support groups

Emergency assistance, such as bus passes, food and housing vouchers, and clothes were made available to clients.

**Outreach and Education**
LTSC reaches out to parents and provides educational workshops on child abuse and breast cancer, case management, counseling, parenting classes and therapy sessions for children.

- 2,157 parents attended workshops
- 174 children of domestic violence participated in fun and relevant group therapy sessions
- 500 women were educated about breast cancer in order to increase their chances of early detection

**Senior Services**
Older mostly non-English speaking adults and their caregivers turn to LTSC for information, referral and resources. Staff also provide culturally appropriate and multi-lingual case management, in-home services, and respite care.

- 10,056 caregivers received information, 2,796 received in-depth assistance
- 375 caregivers received emergency assistance for urgent senior needs
- 155 seniors received in-depth case management, in-home services and/or respite care
- 249 seniors utilized LTSC transportation and translation services for critical health appointments and urgent needs

**Special Needs Programs**
Victims of domestic violence escape abusive situations and start new lives in the Kosmosu Transitional Housing Program.

- 11 women and 14 children found sanctuary at LTSC

Formerly homeless and people with physical and mental disabilities find supportive permanent housing that is culturally and linguistically appropriate. Case managers help tenants secure needed resources and achieve greater independence.

- 15 formerly homeless are now housed
- 5 disabled adults gained independent living skills through housing and 24 hour support services

**BIG PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR**

**Little Tokyo Recreation Center**
The multi-purpose recreation center for children and adults, once built, will also serve as a major sports and martial arts tournament center, provide space for senior citizen nutrition, fitness and community arts programs and help support local businesses. This year, LTSC has reached the final stages of securing site control of the location just south of St. Vibiana Cathedral on Los Angeles Street. http://reccenter.lttsc.org/
## Revenue and Support

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## Expenses

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## Change in Net Assets

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